



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KC WOMAN SENTENCED FOR THREATENING A WITNESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the wife of a man who pleaded guilty to illegally possessing a pipe bomb, was sentenced today for making telephone threats against a witness in her husband's criminal case.

Vernetta Fard, 33, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced this afternoon by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs to 15 months prison without parole.

On May 10, 2002, **Vernetta Fard** pleaded guilty to two counts of interstate telephone threats contained in a March 19, 2002 federal indictment.

Vernetta Fard's husband, **Akfa H. Fard**, 52, also of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty on March 22, 2002, to possessing an illegal pipe bomb. Graves explained that the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department was contacted on February 5, 2002, by a woman who allegedly told officers that her boyfriend, **Akfa Fard**, had left what appeared to be two pipe bombs at her apartment at 4327 the Paseo. That woman, who was not **Vernetta Fard**, allegedly told investigators that she discovered the devices while she was cleaning the apartment, Graves said, and that she had not seen **Akfa Fard** at the apartment since February 2, 2002.

The woman also allegedly told investigators that **Akfa Fard** was "strange acting," Graves said, and that he kept newspaper clippings about the bombings of the federal building in Oklahoma City and the World Trade Center in New York. Graves added that she told investigators that **Akfa Fard** was known to carry a pipe bomb in his backpack, and that he worked at the Holiday Inn, 1215 Wyandotte, in Kansas City, Mo.

(MORE)

WITNESS THREATENED

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Graves said that members of the KCPD Bomb and Arson Unit responded to the Holiday Inn, where they opened an employee storage locker assigned to **Akfa Fard** and seized a homemade pipe bomb. **Akfa Fard** was arrested on February 5, 2002, when he arrived at the hotel.

By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Vernetta Fard** admitted that on two separate instances, both on March 12, 2002, she placed telephone calls that included threats to injure a witness in her husband's criminal case.

The case was prosecuted by Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney Marietta Parker. It was investigated by the Heart of America Joint Terrorism Task Force, which includes the participation of agents and officers from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow